

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for driving a hysteresis-exhibiting final controlling element, comprising the steps of:  
driving the hyteresis-exhibiting final controlling element by a drive signal having a variable drive quantity; and  
correcting the variable drive quantity as a function of a change thereof over time.
  2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
forming an offset value signal on the basis of the change over time of the variable drive quantity, wherein:  
the step of correcting is performed in accordance with the offset value signal.
  3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:  
limiting the offset value signal to a maximum offset value.
  4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein:  
the maximum offset value is variable and is changed as a function of zero crossings of the offset value signal.
  5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, ~~further~~ further comprising the step of:  
reducing the maximum offset value when a counter reading exceeds a predetermined threshold value within a predefined time between two of the zero crossings.
  6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein:  
the counter reading is formed from the offset value signal.
  7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein:  
the maximum offset value is reduced more quickly when a second, higher

threshold value is exceeded.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein:

the offset value signal corresponds to a value of the change over time of the variable drive quantity.

9. (Original) A device for driving a final controlling element exhibiting hysteresis, comprising:

Ar a control device that includes at least one microcomputer and that forms a variable drive signal quantity for driving the final controlling element in accordance with at least one program executed by the at least one microcomputer, wherein:

the at least one program corrects the variable drive signal quantity as a function of a change thereof over time.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium in which a computer program is stored, the computer program causing a processing device to perform the steps of:

driving a final controlling element exhibiting hysteresis by a drive signal having a variable drive quantity; and

correcting the variable drive quantity as a function of a change thereof over time.

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